

Moreover, the Examiner has stated that she considers claims 1, 3, and 4 to be unpatentable over the suggested claim (new claim 14). Applicants, however, respectfully traverse this statement to the extent that applicants maintain that the inventive embodiments covering polynucleotides encoding the amino acids of SEQ ID NOS: 4, 6, and 8 are separately patentable from SEQ ID NO:2. Accordingly, applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 and added claims 15 and 16 to clarify that the inventive embodiments covering polynucleotides encoding the amino acids of SEQ ID NOS: 4, 6, and 8 are separately patentable from SEQ ID NO:2. Specifically, applicants have extracted these sequences from claims 1 and 4 and added them in new claims 15 and 16 in order to emphasize the separate patentability of these sequences.

Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments as they were necessitated in order to comply with the Examiner's request to copy the suggested claim. Applicants submit that a full response to the other issues raised in the Office Action will follow in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.